

Off Highway Vehicle Program

FY 2007 Grant Application Guidelines

Important Highlights

- **An Estimated \$200,000 Available For Off Highway Vehicle Trail Grants**
- **Application Deadline: July 1, 2006**
- **Suggested Time Lines:**
 - **Application Materials to Biologists: May 13, 2006**
 - **Legal Ad in Newspaper Inviting Public Comment by May 29, 2006**
- **No sponsor funds are required; however, projects supported by applicant funds will be given higher priority**

If you have questions or concerns regarding any aspect of your application, please don't hesitate to call Ray Paige (444-7317) of the Off Highway Vehicle Program for advice.

Introduction

FWP administers the Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program with funds appropriated by the state legislature. The program has three components: the OHV Grant Program, enforcement of OHV laws, and a Safety and Ethics Education Program. OHV Program funding derives from 1/8 of 1% of the Distributor's Gasoline License Tax, registration decal fees, dealer registration, and nonresident permit fees. In FY 2006, FWP awarded 12 grants totaling \$197,690. This is a reimbursement program. After approval of all required documentation, FWP will reimburse the sponsor for the actual documented costs incurred. Reimbursement of OHV funds will only be approved for project expenditures incurred after the date of the signed project agreement between the project sponsor and FWP.

Compliance With Existing Laws, Management Authority Regulations, Policies and Ordinances

All projects seeking funding from the OHV Program must comply with existing federal, state and jurisdictional laws, regulations and ordinances. All projects, with the exception of brochures, portable exhibits and displays must satisfy the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Every applicant must complete the MEPA NEPA Checklist found on the official FWP website.

Sponsors should pay special attention to the public-comment requirements at the end of the MEPA NEPA Checklist. Requirements include soliciting public input to the proposed project through a legal ad in a daily newspaper with widest circulation in the immediate project area. The legal ad must run for at least one day. The public comment period must be open for at least 30 days. Please plan your grant application schedule accordingly and start work on this part of the application right away.

Note: Dated MEPA NEPA Checklists and biological review forms are good for two years. If the proposed project is exactly the same as last year's (no variations whatsoever), the MEPA NEPA Checklist and biological review forms from last year may be used with this application

Weed Plan

The following are key points required in a weed plan for an OHV project application. Remember that an existing City, County, Forest, or Resource-area weed plan will not satisfy this application. Your plan must be specific to the immediate project area. Ethics or safety education brochures, and portable exhibits and displays do not require weed plans.

1. A map delineating the location of existing (pre-project) weed infestations (by species).
2. A list of control strategies (mechanical, types of herbicide, etc.) keyed to the map and to weed species. Include how these strategies will be implemented.
3. A schedule for implementing controls that indicates when, where, and who will be involved.
4. An indication of who will be in charge of weed control, now and in the future. Describe who will actually implement the control strategies.

Application Limitations

An applicant may submit only one grant application per grant cycle. An application may contain more than one project phase. If the application contains more than one distinct project phase, the applicant must prioritize those phases.

There is no maximum grant threshold; however, most grant requests are less than \$20,000.

Sponsor must provide all information requested and submit the application by the July 1, 2006 application deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.

Deadline: Your OHV Application Must Be Postmarked by July 1, 2006!